GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2792
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2007
ILLEGAL TRANSPORT OF TIMBER
Charenamei Shri Mani

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Territorial Army (TA) has been utilized to help the State Forest Department to help in checking illegal transport of timber;

(b) if so, the States where Territorial Army has been utilized alongwith number of personnel engaged for the purpose;

(c) whether timber mafias are operating in North East India; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to check the uncontrolled felling of timber and transportation particularly from the North-Eastern States?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (d): Ecological Task Forces have been setup under Territorial Army with the specific task of afforestation, sand dunes stabilization, watershed management, regeneration and restoration of mining areas.The task forces funded either by Central Governments or State Governments are located in Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir and Assam. The Territorial Army has not been utilized to assist State Forest Departments in checking illegal transport of timber.